

AMENDMENTIn the specification:

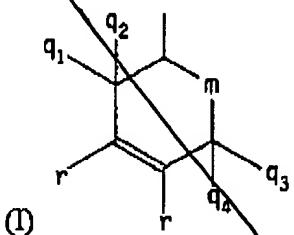
Amend the abstract (p. 42) to read as follows:

B1
 -- Herein is disclosed an oxygen barrier composition comprising an oxygen barrier polymer and an oxygen scavenging polymer. The composition can be in the form of a physical blend or a cross-linked blend, and can further comprise a compatibilizer, a transesterification catalyst, or both. Preferably, the oxygen barrier polymer is poly(ethylene/vinyl alcohol) (EVOH), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), or polyamide other than MXD6, and the oxygen scavenging polymer comprises an ethylenic backbone and a pendant cyclic olefinic group. The oxygen barrier composition can be formed into an oxygen barrier layer of a packaging article. Such layers and articles, and methods for making same, are also disclosed. --

In the claims:

B2
 Cancel claims 5, 24, and 63, and amend claims 1, 6, 20, 25, 59, 60, and 64, to read as follows:

SUB-D1
 (Amended) An oxygen barrier composition, comprising:
 an oxygen barrier polymer, an oxygen scavenging polymer, and an oxidation catalyst,
 wherein the oxygen scavenging polymer comprises a cycloalkenyl group having the
 structure I:



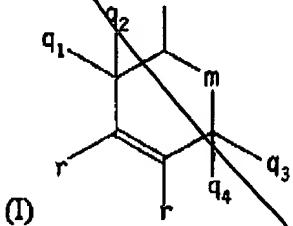
B2
 wherein q₁, q₂, q₃, q₄, and r are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl;
 m is -(CH₂)_n-, wherein n is an integer from 0 to 4, inclusive; and, when r is hydrogen, at least one
 of q₁, q₂, q₃, and q₄ is also hydrogen.

B3

6. (Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the oxygen scavenging polymer is selected from ethylene/methyl acrylate/cyclohexenylmethyl acrylate terpolymer (EMCM), ethylene/vinyl cyclohexene copolymer (EVCH), ethylene/cyclohexenylmethyl acrylate copolymer (ECHA), or cyclohexenylmethyl acrylate homopolymer (CHAA).

SuJi O

20. (Amended) A packaging article, comprising:
at least one oxygen barrier layer comprising an oxygen barrier polymer and an oxygen scavenging polymer,
wherein the oxygen scavenging polymer comprises a cycloalkenyl group having the structure I:



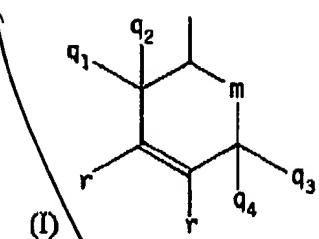
wherein q_1 , q_2 , q_3 , q_4 , and r are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl;
 m is $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$, wherein n is an integer from 0 to 4, inclusive; and, when r is hydrogen, at least one of q_1 , q_2 , q_3 , and q_4 is also hydrogen.

BS

25. (Amended) The packaging article of claim 20, wherein the oxygen scavenging polymer is selected from ethylene/methyl acrylate/cyclohexenylmethyl acrylate terpolymer (EMCM), ethylene/vinyl cyclohexene copolymer (EVCH), ethylene/cyclohexenylmethyl acrylate copolymer (ECHA), or cyclohexenylmethyl acrylate homopolymer (CHAA).

SuJi O

59. (Amended) A method of making an oxygen barrier composition comprising an oxygen barrier polymer and an oxygen scavenging polymer, wherein the oxygen scavenging polymer is present as an insoluble filler, comprising:
providing the oxygen barrier polymer and the oxygen scavenging polymer, wherein the oxygen scavenging polymer comprises a cycloalkenyl group having the structure I:

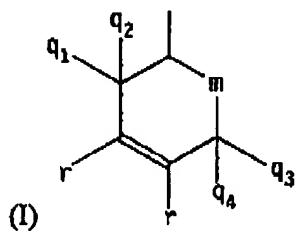


*B6
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wherein q_1 , q_2 , q_3 , q_4 , and r are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl; m is $-(CH_2)_n-$, wherein n is an integer from 0 to 4, inclusive; and, when r is hydrogen, at least one of q_1 , q_2 , q_3 , and q_4 is also hydrogen; cross-linking the oxygen scavenging polymer with itself, to form an insoluble oxygen scavenging polymer; and mixing the oxygen barrier polymer and the insoluble oxygen scavenging polymer, to form the oxygen barrier composition.

60. (Amended) A method of forming an oxygen barrier layer in a packaging article, comprising:

providing an oxygen barrier composition comprising an oxygen barrier polymer and an oxygen scavenging polymer, wherein the oxygen scavenging polymer comprises a cycloalkenyl group having the structure I:



wherein q_1 , q_2 , q_3 , q_4 , and r are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl; m is $-(CH_2)_n-$, wherein n is an integer from 0 to 4, inclusive; and, when r is hydrogen, at least one of q_1 , q_2 , q_3 , and q_4 is also hydrogen; and forming the composition into the packaging article or an oxygen barrier layer thereof.

64. (Amended) The method of claim 60, wherein the oxygen scavenging polymer is selected from ethylene/methyl acrylate/cyclohexenylmethyl acrylate terpolymer (EMCM),